

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

(a) Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yokoi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,257,692). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In claim 1, the “transmitting means” has been amended to claim:

transmitting means switchable between a first position for transmitting the rotation force generated by the driving motor to the document conveying mechanism when the printer head is located in a specified position for conveyance of the document, and a second position for transmitting the rotation force only to the recording sheet conveying mechanism when the printer head is located in a position, for printing and conveyance of the recording sheet, other than the specified position,

to further clarify the present invention. In Fig. 1A, the “specified position for conveyance of the document” is shown as “HP-2” and the “a position, for printing and conveyance of the recording sheet, other than the specified position” is shown “HP-1” (Note that this position can be anywhere at which a printing operation may take place). Applicants note that the word “only” in the “transmitting means . . . transmitting the rotation force only to the recording sheet conveying mechanism” limitation, as recited in claim 1 (as well as in claims 5 and 6, as amended), is used only in regard to the “document conveying mechanism,” and merely means that the document is not conveyed. Thus, the rotation force generated by the driving motor may be utilized as a driving force for other members such as a cooling fan.

In the *Response to Arguments* section of the Office Action, the Examiner states:

In column: 7 line: 5-10, Yokoi clearly teaches that the apparatus having the ejector roller gear 28, which is the same as transmitting means, which rotate the ejector head from one

position to other position, and applicants just claiming specific position, then didn't claim[ed] which is specific position. Therefore Yokoi reads on the present claim language.

Yokoi states, in col. 7, lines 6-10:

Accordingly, when the motor gear 25 is rotated normally in a direction shown by the arrow a by the normal rotation of the motor 24, the convey roller gear 26, sheet supply roller gear 31 and ejector roller gear 28 are also rotated in normal directions.

Applicants do not clearly understand as to which element of Yokoi the Examiner is referring to as the "ejector head."

If the Examiner is referring to the ejector head the recording head 1 shown in Fig. 1 of Yokoi, Yokoi merely states, in col. 6, lines 9-12:

An ink jet recording head 1 is mounted on a carriage 2. When the carriage 2 is shifted in a main scanning direction perpendicular to a plane of Fig. 1 along a carriage shaft 3, the recording head 1 is moved for the main scan.

Therefore, even assuming that the ejector roller gear 28 of Yokoi corresponds to the "transmitting means" of the present invention, which Applicants do not admit, the ejector roller gear 28 does not switch "between a first position for transmitting the rotation force generated by the driving motor to the document conveying mechanism when the printer head is located in a specified position for conveyance of the document, and a second position for transmitting the rotation force only to the recording sheet conveying mechanism when the printer head is located in a position, for conveyance of the recording sheet, other than the specified position," as recited in claim 1.

If the Examiner is referring to some other element of Yokoi as the "ejector head," the Examiner is respectfully requested to clarify as to which element the Examiner is referring to.

Claims 2-4, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi (JP 2002-037482). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated in the previous Reply, Doi discloses a facsimile equipment having a motor 3, a document conveying mechanism that includes gears 13 and 33 that receive rotation force from the motor 3 when is transmit mode (see paragraph [0036]), and a recording sheet conveying mechanism that includes gears 9 and 26 that receive rotation force from the motor 3 when it is in receive mode (see paragraph [0038]). The equipment of Doi also has a cam 22 that prevents gears 9 and 26 from engaging during the transmit mode and prevents gears 13 and 33 from engaging during the receive mode.

The Examiner states in the Office Action that Doi discloses “transmitting means for transmitting the rotation force generated by the driving motor to the document conveying mechanism when recorded head locates in a specified element” by referring to element 36 shown in Fig. 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that with regard to the transport roller 35, Doi merely states, in paragraph [0036]:

An output of the motor 3 is transmitted to a set of gears which forms a transfer mechanism, and transmitted to the sheet-feed roller 34, the transport roller 35, and the paper discharge roller 36, and thus the sheet is transferred in the direction of E.

Doi does not even disclose a “recorded head” (amended to the “printer head” in this Reply), and thus does not disclose or suggest the relationship between the position of the “recorded head” and the transmission of the rotation force.

Therefore, Doi fails to disclose or suggest any mechanism that is switchable “between a first position for transmitting the rotation force generated by the driving motor to the document conveying mechanism when the printer head is located in a specified position for conveyance of the document, and a second position for transmitting the rotation force only to the recording sheet conveying mechanism when the printer head is located in a position, for conveyance of the recording sheet, other than the specified position,” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that claims 5 and 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of this, claim 5 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 1, and claim 6 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2 to place them in condition for allowance.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

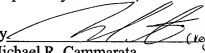
The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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